

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Water Resources Development Act of 2005 will address water, flooding issues in the 15th District, Congressman Dent says

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) applauded House passage Thursday of bipartisan legislation authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out various studies, projects, and programs relating to navigation, flood damage reduction, shoreline protection, dam safety, water supply, recreation, and environmental restoration and protection.

H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005 (WRDA), passed the House by a vote of 406 to 14. Congressman Dent had requested authorization of numerous projects in the 15th District and areas that affect it. Their inclusion in the bill language does not establish funding, but specifies them as priorities for the Corps. The bill also requires Senate action and the President's signature.

Among the items addressed in the WRDA is flooding protection in river and shoreline communities nationwide, an issue Congressman Dent intends to address further in light of repeated flooding problems throughout the district.

Dent co-sponsored Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick's bill, H.R. 1983, to study the Delaware River for the best practices to prevent future flooding, which is included as an amendment to WRDA.

The amendment instructs the Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation with the Delaware River Basin Commission and the states of

Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware to devise site specific environmentally friendly ways, like preserving open space and voluntarily raising homes, to lessen the impact of future flooding. The inclusion of Fitzpatrick's bill as an amendment to WRDA authorizes Congress to find funding for the study.

“I’m pleased that Congress has included studies of the rivers and streams in our area — specifically, the Delaware River, Northampton and Lehigh County Streams and the Spring Creek Corridor — and I will continue to find ways the federal government can address this problem.”

All WRDA projects in the 15th District are listed below:

- **Northampton and Lehigh County streams study**, Northampton and Lehigh counties: Initiate and complete a reconnaissance study for the Northampton and Lehigh County streams for ecosystem restoration, flood plain management, flood control, water quality control, groundwater and subsidence management, and comprehensive watershed management.
- **Flood Reduction on the Spring Creek Corridor**, Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County: Improvements to reduce floods on the Spring Creek Corridor.
- **Stillwater Dam improvement**, Tobyhanna Township, Monroe County: Improve the Stillwater Dam.
- **Leaser Lake Dam Reconstruction/Lake Restoration**, Lehigh County: Reconstruction of the dam at Leaser Lake. The dam was built and is operated by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission; the County of Lehigh maintains the property. Currently the lake is only half-full because of structural concerns about the dam.
- **Water quality model for Lehigh River**, Lehigh County: Use existing water-quality data to model the effects of the Francis E. Walter Dam, at different water levels, to determine its impact on the Lehigh River.
- **Removal of Cementon Dam on the Lehigh River**, Lehigh and Northampton Counties: Design and removal of the run-of-river dam on

the main stem of the Lehigh River between Lehigh and Northampton. If removal is not feasible, the establishment of a fish passage for the American shad and other species is recommended.

- **Saucon Creek stream restoration**, Northampton County: Restoration of significant portions of the Saucon Creek in Northampton County. This work would include stream-bank stabilization, aquatic-habitat improvement, and riparian-buffer establishment.

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